**Psalm 91:5-10 You shall not be afraid of the terror by night, *Nor* of the arrow *that* flies by day, 6*Nor* of the pestilence *that* walks in darkness, *Nor* of the destruction *that* lays waste at noonday. 7A thousand may fall at your side, And ten thousand at your right hand; *But* it shall not come near you. 8Only with your eyes shall you look, And see the reward of the wicked. 9Because you have made the Lord, *who is* my refuge, *Even* the Most High, your dwelling place, 10No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling;**

Last week, we looked at the first 4 verses of Psalm 91. We talked about the presence of the Lord with us now. We talked about dwelling with Him, choosing to sit down and stay in His shadow while we are in this life. Nahum 1:7 tells us - *The Lord is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble; And He knows those who trust in Him.* But we must choose to sit down. Many of us never choose to sit down, never choose to be still, never choose to be silent, always talking and never listening… we need not wonder why we don’t hear and why God feels far away, reserved for when we die. Let me assure you today - God is very, very present. Are we present for Him today?

 In our scripture, verse 5 says - *You shall not be afraid of the terror by night.* Growing up, one of my jobs was to feed our dogs. The lot was way down near the creek. It got very dark out there in the country. Sometimes, it’d be late and I’d have to walk down there and feed them. As a child, I was afraid of the dark, that terror that stood just beyond the edge of the flashlight. The Hebrew here means that the terror is literally *twisted away from the light*.

What does the Bible tell us about the light and the dark? John 1:5 says *And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.* John 8:12 *Then Jesus spoke to them again, saying, “I am the light of the world. He who follows Me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life.”* Ephesians 5:8 *For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light.* We need not fear the dark because we walk in the Light, the Truth of Jesus. We need not be afraid of the terror by night; we have a shield and a buckler.

The last part of the verse says - *Nor of the arrow that flies by day.* We need not fear the fiery darts that fly daily. Our shield is found in God, but we must be in His presence, dwelling in His shadow, close, not separated – it is a choice we make day by day, minute by minute.

Verse 6 says *Nor of the pestilence that walks in darkness, Nor of the destruction that lays waste at noonday.* Last week, we talked about the perilous pestilence, the plague that rushes upon us. Here we understand these to be continuous dangers, the unknown if you will. Pestilence that walks continually in unknown, ruin that comes in the light of day. The idea is that God is present and ready whenever we have need. We need not wonder about His goodness and protection. We need only dwell securely, safely, resting in the assurance of His shadow.

Verse 7 *A thousand may fall at your side, And ten thousand at your right hand; But it shall not come near you.*Things are happening all around us. We see the result of the Fall of the world. We hear of wars and rumors of war. We hear of disease, death, destruction. We need not fear. God is with us. Ten thousand falling has the idea of a multitude, more than can be imagined! A disaster!! Don’t fear… it will not touch us in the shadow of the Most High.

Verse 8 *Only with your eyes shall you look, And see the reward of the wicked.*We shall look intently, we shall behold with our eyes, we shall see the wicked receive their reward. Psalm 34:21 tells us - *Evil shall slay the wicked, And those who hate the righteous shall be condemned.* Psalm 1:6 says - *For the Lord knows the way of the righteous, But the way of the ungodly shall perish.* Our hearts need only trust, our souls need only rest, our eyes need only to watch as evil slays the wicked, the way of ungodly perishes, but God guards the way of those who have righteousness in Jesus.

Verse 9 gives us the why - *Because you have made the Lord, who is my refuge, Even the Most High, your dwelling place.* Choice. Because we chose to sit down in the shadow of the Almighty and abide there, we are protected in His presence.

Verse 10 - *No evil shall befall you, Nor shall any plague come near your dwelling.* Evil shall not befall us, darkness shall not overtake us, the snare shall not close around us when we dwell in the Presence of God. No plague of our spirit will come upon us. Does this mean we will never get sick or have problems? No. This world is fallen. We must be content in the Presence of God, knowing that, come what may, He is with us and we are His beloved children.

This week, let’s continue to consider our Presence in the Lord. Is God right there with you or is He distant? Can you feel the safety of His shadow? How close are we abiding to the Almighty? In Matthew 16:15 Jesus asks His disciples - *But who do you say that I am?* It’s a question that God asks each of us. Our answer will tell us whether we are abiding and resting in His shadow or whether we are still seeking the light of His presence. Let’s choose this week to abide in God, our High and Mighty fortress.